## State of Idaho **DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE**

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## **NEWS RELEASE**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Insurance Department Alerts Agents to Fraud Ring**

Scam artists targeting agents in Nevada and California

BOISE ID (June 8, 2009) — The Idaho Department of Insurance has been made aware of a recent fraud ring targeting insurance agents in Nevada and California. Scammers are posing as Department employees and threatening agents with license suspension unless they provide confidential personal data to the imposter.

Reports from Nevada and California indicate that fraudsters contact licensed agencies and tell their targets that they are facing license suspension for failing to file proper paperwork. They request personal data such as date of birth, social security number, credit card and telephone numbers in order to rectify the situation.

"We urge all agents doing business in Idaho to safeguard their personal information including credit card or social security numbers," said Bill Deal, Department Director. "The Department will always be able to provide written confirmation regarding any request for such information."

Producer Licensing Supervisor Lisa Tjordman said, "We do not ask for this type of information over the phone or alert agents to a licensing issue in this manner."

If Idaho agents receive a telephone call requesting this information, they are urged to contact the Department at 334-4250 in Boise, or 800-721-3272 toll free statewide, as well as local law enforcement agencies. Agents may also call the fraud hotline, 866-939-7226. No incidences of this scam have been reported in Idaho.

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